

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 19 | Humidity 82%

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain

Sensex 66,023 | Nifty 19,811 | Gold 62,020 | Silver 74,600 | Dollar 83.32 | Euro 90.62 | GBP 104.32



CITY / PAGE 4
EVERYTHING'S A MESS
 BBMP there?
 Footpaths, parks,
 lakes all awry...



CITY / PAGE 5
SCHOOL VEHICLE CHECK
 Housefull inside,
 traffic chaos outside

CCTV cameras set up across city to ensure citizens' safety, especially women's, rusting away without connectivity

THIRD EYE BLIND

₹ 667 crore allocated for installation of 16,000 CCTV cameras under Safe City Nirbhaya project'

I Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has installed thousands of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras across the city spending crores of rupees to ensure women's safety.

However, many of the CCTV cameras installed a few years ago crave attention due to lack of maintenance and connectivity. Some of the CCTV cameras are rusting away or without cable connectivity.

For example, Bengaluru NavaNirman Party volunteers conducted a survey on CCTV cameras installed at Doddanekundi ward in Mahadevapura Zone. They found many of the CCTV cameras defunct. They said the BBMP authorities installed 10 CCTV cameras in 2019 at an estimated cost of Rs 10 lakh but majority of them are now



dysfunctional. They wondered whether the CCTV cameras installed in 2019 would be replaced or repaired.

The CCTV camera installed near CMRIT College does not have cable connection. Another CCTV camera installed near the BEML Layout exit towards Varthur is not functioning.

"The survey conducted in Doddanekundi ward throws light

on the inappropriate use of funds by installing the CCTV cameras in the wrong locations and non-maintenance and most importantly non-accountability for such initiatives. The recent developments in BEML Layout and Kundalahalli colony, alongside the non-functionality of cameras installed in 2019, underscore the

“ There was a command and control centre which had switches near the cameras to alert police patrol vehicles in the area in case of emergency

— Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

WELL, WELL, WELL...



Open traditional well with stone masonry to be constructed at Lalbagh to conserve water

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

During the rainy season, the Lalbagh Botanical Garden in Bengaluru faces water stagnation in spots threatening its diverse range of plant life. Moreover, the excess rainwater flowing out of the garden tends to mix with storm water carrying pollutants. In a bid to look at ways of conserving water through natural resources, an open traditional well of 25 ft diameter and a minimum depth of 40 ft with stone masonry will be constructed at the park.

This kind of huge wells of stone masonry to draw and conserve water have not been constructed within Bengaluru city after the advent of borewells for more than five decades; this well is to reestablish the importance and the centuries-old connection to the shallow aquifer of Bengaluru city.

Lalbagh Botanical Garden, sprawling over 240 acres, boasts an impressive collection of over 1,854 plant species, and faces challenges due to the erratic weather patterns alongside rainfall induced flooding

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

Class act: Make govt schools great again

State's ambitious plan to revitalise government education by introducing 2,000 Karnataka Public Schools

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Government schools are witnessing a steady decline in admissions, and the state government now plans to introduce more Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) to enhance their appeal to students. Madhu Bangarappa, the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, said that more schemes are being implemented to attract more students to government schools, thus the plan to introduce 2,000 Karnataka Public Schools in the next two years, aiming to bolster better enrolment rates.

An official explained, "As part of the Karnataka Government's ambitious plan, a total of 176 Karnataka Public Schools were opened in the state by 2018-19. The primary objective is to enhance the quality of government schools, ensuring that at least 75 per cent of students achieve 75 per cent of learning competencies, with the remaining students achieving a minimum of 50 per cent of learning competencies. Additionally, the plan aims to establish a reliable system to evaluate children's learning abilities. The Karnataka Public Schools are designed to serve as

model schools, equipped with best-in-class facilities, incorporating primary, secondary, and pre-university institutions with administrative, educational, and functional combinations."

In Karnataka, there are presently 47,449 government schools hosting 42,66,645 students and employing 1,73,647 teachers. As of the academic year 2023-24, the count of students attending private schools has increased to 46,43,225, compared to 45,13,902 in the previous academic year.

Despite these efforts, government schools are rapidly closing, with 567 schools shutting down in the state due to poor enrolment. In 2022-23, there were 48,066 government schools in Karnataka, which decreased to 47,499 in 2023-24. Officials state that schools with lower enrolment have been attached to nearby schools, indicating technical closure, and students have been directed to report to the nearby schools. Over the past few years, the student strength in government schools has been diminishing. Statistics reveal that there are 3,700 schools in Karnataka with student strength of less than ten, and 6,500 schools have just a single teacher.

When contacted, BB Cauvery, Commissioner for the School Education and Literacy Depart-



Government to introduce 2,000 Karnataka Public Schools to enhance quality of government schools

Many parents faced financial issues during Covid, and hence, they temporarily shifted their wards to government schools

— Ganesh Bhat, a school teacher

ment, acknowledged an increase in private schools and a growing inclination towards private school enrolment. Between 2020 and 2022, there was a temporary increase in government school enrolment during the COVID period as some parents shifted their wards to government schools

due to financial challenges. However, as the Covid waves subsided, enrolment shifted back to private schools. Ganesh Bhat, a school teacher, commented, "Many parents faced financial issues during Covid, and hence, they temporarily shifted their wards to government schools. However, with the economy back on track, parents are moving their wards back to private schools. This is one of the reasons for the increase in private school enrolment."

Looking at the statistics over the last five years, the total number of students in government schools has decreased by a significant 2.5 lakh.

3 THINGS TO DO



01 Bollywood groove

Get ready to groove to the beats of DJ Tej at Magique, Koramangala, on November 25, 2023! DJ Tej, known for his energetic performances, will blend the best of Punjabi and Bollywood music, ensuring a night of non-stop dancing and unforgettable moments. **When: November 25, 2023; Where: Magique, Koramangala**



02 Law symposium

The Supreme Court Observer is delighted to be a partner for the upcoming Law Asia Conference in Bangalore. Engage in thought-provoking discussions, gain insights from legal luminaries, and stay abreast of the dynamic legal landscape. **When: November 24-27, 2023; Where: Four Seasons Hotel, Bengaluru; For more details, visit <https://lawasia2023.com/>**

03 Bee awareness

Attention Bee Enthusiasts! Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of bees at the Bee Buddy Session - an engaging event dedicated to spreading awareness about these buzzing wonders. Join the



expert guide, Akshay Borse, Chief Beekeeper at Moonshine Honey Project, as he takes you on a captivating journey through the diverse facets of bee life. Uncover the vital role of beekeepers and understand the impact of climate change on these essential creatures. Don't miss this chance to become a Bee Buddy!

When: November 26; Where: Bangalore Creative Circus; Ticket link: <https://insider.in/bee-buddy-session-nov25-2023/event>

A campaign that gets under your skin

The Bangalore Dermatological Society (BDS) has initiated a three-month-long awareness campaign in the city, aiming to instil a sense of appreciation and care for healthy skin. The drive responds to the increasing prevalence of unqualified practitioners offering skincare advice,

potentially causing harm to individuals.

Dr Nandini A.S., President of BDS, emphasised the importance of verifying skincare professionals' qualifications and urged caution against exaggerated claims or miracle cures. "When it is a skin problem, everybody tends to become a



dermatologist," she remarked. The campaign includes posters on 50 Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation and Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation buses, reinforcing the message to the public.

The BDS President shared instances where individuals, influenced by friends, family, or influencers, attempted various skincare methods without professional guidance, resulting in worsened conditions. She stressed the need

to consult certified dermatologists with MD, DVD, or DNB (Dermatology) degrees and directed people to www.iadvl.org to find qualified professionals.

Dr Nandini recounted a troubling incident where a mother sought skin-lightening treatment for her 8-month-old baby with a naturally dark skin tone. "I had to counsel the parent to accept the colour of the skin and highlighted the advantages of having a dark skin tone," she explained. — BMB

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ರ.ನಂ.88ಯು, 1964-65, ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28/10/64
13 ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, 35 ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆ, 4ನೇ 'ಬಿ' ಬ್ಲಾಕ್, ಜಯನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560041
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ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080 - 41673605 | ಮೊಬೈಲ್ : 6364669906

Death by electricity: Cry to act against negligent grows loud

Lokayutka issues notice to 7 officers



BBMP workers remove dangling cables from the road side and under the trees in several parts of the city after the deaths of a mother and child due to electrocution, on Wednesday

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

With demand growing to take action against senior officials for their negligence after the deaths of a woman and her child in the city due to electrocution, the Lokayukta took suo motu cognizance and issued notices to seven officers on Wednesday.

Notice has been issued to the Additional Chief Secretary of Energy department, Managing Director of the Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) and others. Lokayukta Justice BS Patil has sought a report regarding the tragedy in two weeks. The case has been registered under the provisions of the Section 7(1) (B) of the Karnataka Lokayukta Act and others.

Four separate probes: police, BESCOM, electrical inspectorate, and an independent inquiry are also being conducted to fix accountability.

Finger-pointing

While rodent activity and official negligence are blamed for the ghastly incident that killed the two, BESCOM has also pointed fingers at the illegal laying of optical fiber cables over BESCOM transformers and poles. Unlike previous instances, the Energy Department doesn't want to

A transformer put by an apartment complex was damaged due to rodent activity. There was a short circuit on 11 kV overhead and the wire was hanging

—Appachu Ranjan, Bescom

immediately snap the cables. It will provide a fortnight's time for OFCs to go underground.

Energy Minister KJ George said, "Before asking the OFCs to be snapped, we need to provide an alternative. In the TenderSURE roads, there is a provision of ducts. So, in such roads, we will provide a 15-day window period for the operators to lay them underground. However, on other roads, the BBMP needs to provide permission to dig up the roads. So we will discuss with authorities what measures could be taken there to take the cables underground." He said that as per the ACT, no one should put OFC on transformers or poles.

"If we say that all OFCs should be snapped, then it will be done shortly. However, we cannot do it without an alternative. If we find dangling wires after 15 days, then we will snap. In those roads where there are ducts, the cables have to go, and only their wires will

be cut."

8 electrocution deaths this year

An average of 10 people are losing their lives due to electrocution in BESCOM jurisdiction. According to the data, 81 people have been electrocuted in the last five years, and of them, 70 died. This year alone has seen eight electrocution deaths. In 2020, 21 were electrocuted, and 19 lost their lives.

Chief Electrical Inspector Appachu Ranjan said, "An apartment complex had installed a transformer, which was damaged due to rodent activity. There was a short circuit on 11 kV overhead; there was no earthing, and the live wire was hanging. We are examining all the details, why the conductor snapped at a particular point." He said that the load break system wire was cut by a rodent; 11 kV bus bar has been snapped. "The supply side had fallen on the ground at 3:50 am, and there was a trip at the Kadugodi sub-station," he said. According to him the station operator restarted power in five minutes. "There was no trip in any line as the line was on pavement and the fault was not recognised. From 3:55 am to 5:47 am, the power was out in the conductor. This was when Soundarya was returning home with her 9-month-old daughter and husband Santhosh Kumar when she stepped on the snapped 11 kV wire on the pavement."

BMRCL probing harassment incident at metro station

After a woman alleged on social media that her friend was groped on a Metro train, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) said they have been informed about the incident.

The woman had said on Reddit that incident happened at 8.50 am at the Majestic metro station. She said the woman navigating through the crowd after boarding the metro train in Majestic, she allegedly felt a man clothed in a red shirt grope her. "Even the lady responsible for managing passenger flow let an unusually large number of people into the train at once. After a while, my friend began to feel very uncomfortable. She soon realised that a man in a red shirt, standing right behind her, was touching and grabbing her from the

Victim's friend puts out story on social media, evoking concern for women passengers

back. She could feel his nails," the victim's friend said in the post. The post also said the woman had started screaming and crying for help, but nobody seemed to care. "Are there CCTV cameras inside the metro or at the station? Where can I access the footage? Please help me," she wrote, while adding that the victim was traumatised due to the incident.

The incident has sparked a wave of concern for women commuters who use the Metro services. Since the entire Purple Line, from Challaghatta to Whitefield

was thrown open to the public recently, regular commuters have been witnessing severe crowding during peak hours.

BMRCL Chief Public Relations Officer (PRO), Yeshwanth Chavan, told Bangalore Mirror that the incident has been brought to their notice. However, an official complaint has not been raised on it. "We have not received the specific details of the incident making it harder for us to investigate the issue. Currently, we only have a vague detail of the timing of the incident. While one claims the incident to have taken place at 8:30 am, another narrative claims the incident to have taken place at 8:50 am. We are still looking into any evidence that may prop up in order to provide relief for the victim," he said. —BMB

VK STREET SAMBRAMA

Come, let's play Bugari | Lagori | Kite Flying | Kuntebille

VIJAY KARNATAKA, Kannada's No.1 daily with the largest readership, is celebrating **VK Street Sambrama** in collaboration with **BBMP & Police Department**. Do come with your family and enjoy the day, with Small Screen and Sandalwood Celebrities.

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BBMP there? Footpaths, parks, lakes all awry...

Residents demand immediate revival as lacklustre maintenance leaves streets in shambles

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities have consistently allocated and spent funds for the development of basic infrastructure, including footpaths, parks, toilets, and bus shelters for the public's benefit. However, many of them are in need of attention from the authorities. It has become a routine for the BBMP authorities to show apathy or negligence after receiving complaints from park visitors, city commuters, and hapless pedestrians who have no space on the footpath to walk, thus making themselves vulnerable to road accidents.

The footpaths in Jogupalya ward, represented by Mayor Gautam Kumar in the BBMP Council, are either occupied by petty shops, and street vendors or cluttered with dumped construction materials, which raises concerns about the proper use and maintenance of public space.

"There is no safety for pedestrians here. They have to walk on the road, especially on 9th G Street and Jogupalya Main Road, as these roads lack footpaths. Moreover, most of the narrow road space is occupied by vegetable vendors and flower sellers near the entrance of the road, close to the Namma Metro Station. It is nothing but vote bank politics," said Murugesh N, a resident of Jogupalya.

The footpath on Artillery Road near 515 Army Base Workshop High School is filled with debris, leaving no space for pedestrians to walk. Those travelling from Gautampura towards Lido Mall are forced to walk



Debris-filled footpaths on Artillery Road and Jogupalya Road

on the busy road due to the presence of an electric transformer on the footpath.

The narrow roads in Shivajinagar are not different from those in Jogupalya within the Shantinagar Assembly constituency. The footpaths on these roads are only free from encroachments after 10 or 11 pm. Most of the time, these roads are occupied by street vendors, and the authorities concerned, including elected representatives, seem oblivious to reasons best known to them.

There is little cause for celebration regarding the facilities provided at parks and lakes maintained by the BBMP. Specifically, the children's play equipment in these parks is either inaccessible or in suboptimal condition.

A survey conducted by Janaa-

Most of the narrow road space is occupied by vegetable vendors and flower sellers near the entrance of the road, close to the Namma Metro Station – Murugesh N, a resident of Jogupalya

graha found that 294 road segments in Banaswadi ward are not particularly pedestrian-friendly. The survey encompassed Banaswadi, Gottigere, Dattatreya Temple, and Pulikeshinagar wards. Of the 14 parks surveyed, most were found to lack adequate toilet facilities, drinking water, surveillance cameras, and leaf composting units. Additionally, the survey

identified a deficiency in amenities at some bus stops in Banaswadi and Gottigere wards.

"I am not happy with the maintenance of some of the bus stops. I want the authorities to ensure cleanliness at these bus stops by regularly removing garbage from the bins," said Ashok Kumar N, a resident of Banaswadi.

The survey found that 56 additional public toilets are required in four wards: 12 toilets in Banaswadi ward, 18 toilets in Gottigere ward, 14 toilets in Dattatreya ward, and 12 toilets in Pulikeshinagar ward.

Will the BBMP authorities maintain amenities at bus stops, and parks, and ensure pedestrian-friendly footpaths? Concerned pedestrians, senior citizens, and children have to wait and watch.

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Junction jam Jayanagar



Traffic chaos ensues on 33rd Cross between 9th and 11th Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, with vehicles parked on pavements, creating a bottleneck for both pedestrians and vehicles. The absence of traffic police exacerbates the situation, compounded by a malfunctioning signal at the junction of 33rd Cross and 11th Main.

Unfinished drainage Lavelle Road



Despite ongoing drainage work in front of the BMW Showroom a few days ago to close the footpath, there is still stinking stagnant water and unfinished construction.

How Bengaluru's blindspots go overlooked

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

importance of accountability, transparency, and community consultation in such projects," said Indira Belde, governing council member of BNP. Expressing concern over the defunct CCTV cameras, Amit, a resident of Kundalahalli said that the CCTV cameras are not serving purpose despite the BBMP spending crores of rupees on the installation of CCTV cameras. "The main reason for the defunct CCTV cameras is the lack of proper maintenance and monitoring by the authorities concerned," said Amit.

The other location is Kurubarahalli Junction near Dr Rajkumar Statue where the CCTV cameras are not working. The residents said CCTV cameras have been defunct for quite a long time.

"I am of the opinion that the BBMP should create a surveillance

team for the maintenance of the CCTV cameras and these should be connected to nearest police stations and hospitals to make it easy to deal with emergency situations," said Yatish M, a resident.

Emphasising the need of maintaining the CCTV cameras, Satish Rao, a social activist from Indiranagar, said the CCTV cameras not only work as a deterrent but also help police to nab the criminals. "The CCTV cameras would ensure women's safety and also help police to probe cases of theft and crime against women," said Rao.

Stating that Rs 667 crore were allocated for installation of 16,000 CCTV cameras under the Safe City Nirbhaya project, Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation said that it is not known how many of these CCTV cameras are installed and are in a working condition. "There was also a (CCC) command and control centre

which had switches near the cameras to alert police patrol vehicles in the area in case of emergency," said Jacob. It is said that most of the CCTV cameras installed in and around KR Puram are not functioning. "The BBMP authorities installed the CCTV cameras a few years ago. The authorities failed to maintain these CCTV cameras. It seems they installed the CCTV cameras and forgot their existence after preparing the bill for payment to the contractor," said Rathna Bharatha Raitha Samaja State President Lakshman L. Around 50 CCTV cameras installed at Varthur and Bellandur lakes are not functioning due to lack of maintenance by the authorised agency.

Richards Town Residents Association vice president Anna Alex Jacob said the residents have advocated for the installation of surveillance cameras across our neighbourhood but regrettably, while the

authorities did heed the residents' request partially, the execution leaves much to be desired.

"Two cameras have been installed — one positioned to oversee Clarke Road from the park's periphery, and the other from Brigade Heritage directed towards the park. However, the bitter irony lies in their current state: neither camera is linked to any monitoring system! In a city hailed as a 'Smart City,' this glaring oversight feels particularly baffling," said Anna.

She said amid the looming spectre of a possible recession, ensuring community safety has surged to the forefront. "In Richards Town, a recent surge in criminal activities, including muggings, mobile phone and handbag snatchings, and two alarming knifing attempts, has heightened our apprehensions. Despite our persistent appeals to the police department, our security woes remain largely unaddressed," she said.

Water leakage BVK Iyengar Road



Water leakage from BVK Iyengar Road after RT Street Cross is reaching AS Char Street, and immediate action is needed to address the issue, as motorists are exacerbating the problem with water splashes.

Online rummy debt turns coconut seller into thief

A man who used to steal tender coconuts from different sections of the city and sell them to other sellers during the day has been taken into custody by the police. According to the police, the accused has been identified as Mohan, who hails from Tamil Nadu. Mohan allegedly began stealing tender coconuts after he ran up a significant debt from gaming.

Reports state that accused Mohan used to sell tender coconuts himself. After he lost millions of rupees playing online

Accused used to steal around 100-200 tender coconuts each day and sell it to other merchants

rummy games, he accrued an enormous debt. After that, he rented a car, used it to drive a cab during the day, and used it to steal coconuts at night. It has been stated that he was complicit in several thefts in the city. After coconuts were rou-

tinely taken from his storage location, Rajanna, a tender coconut vendor, filed a complaint at the Girinagar Police Station.

The accused is suspected of stealing between 100 and 200 tender coconuts each day, claiming to have obtained them from Maddur, and selling them to other merchants in the morning.

The culprit was detained by the Girinagar Police, who also confiscated his bike and car, which together were valued at Rs 8 lakh. **BMB**

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School vehicle check: Housefull inside, traffic chaos outside

As police conduct special drive to crack down on crowding of vehicles ferrying kids, citizens speak of other inconveniences children face

Ahna Prakash
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

During a special drive, the traffic police filed 994 complaints against automobiles that were carrying more school students than the allowed capacity of the vehicles.

Following a number of grievances and concerns expressed online, a special campaign was carried out around the city after school hours; in which 2,050 automobiles with school children inside were inspected by police. In this drive, the police booked 319 buses, 122 autorickshaws, 133 minivans, 332 vans, and 89 other vehicles. There are 333 instances booked in the east division, 215 in the north, 305 in the west, and 142 in the south division. "Such vehicle drivers have been prosecuted under section 177 of MV Act. Further such drives shall continue," said the police.

MN Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), has also instructed private vehicle drivers and school administrators to fully abide by the government's directives when transporting students.

Why punish kids

Many parents questioned the rationale behind stopping vehicles midway, stressing that kids have no role in this situation. "Around 3.30



Police plan to conduct more drives to check vehicles ferrying school kids across the city

"I understand the police need to conduct checks when the bus is full to assess crowding. But, is this the best approach as children are inconvenienced?"

—Poornima Jagadish, a parent

pm, I witnessed traffic police stopping at least four to five vehicles of a private school opposite the Mallasandra bus stand on Hesaraghatta Main Road on Tuesday. It was shocking to see the kids waiting anxiously in the bus to go back home. Penalising kids for no fault of theirs is questionable. I understand that the police need to conduct checks, and they can do so effectively when the bus is full of kids to assess crowding. However, I still question what the best approach is for the police to ensure that school children are not inconvenienced. Perhaps, they could

videograph the bus, allow it to proceed, and then reach out to the school the next day to take necessary action," said S Sharan, a resident of MEI layout.

Poornima Jagadish, another parent added that her children came home late from school on Tuesday. "Upon inquiry, I was informed that they were stopped by the police for checking. They were supposed to reach home by 3.30 pm, attend a dance class at 4 pm, and then go skating at 5 pm. However, due to the surprise checks, my kids reached home at 4.15 pm. After a long class, they were tired and hungry, and these surprise checks should not come at the expense of students' time. Although I appreciate the police's need to take tough action against crowding, they should devise a method that causes less inconvenience to the kids," she said.

Don't halt here

School vehicles are often accused not only of carrying more than their capacity, but also bus drivers allegedly stop the bus in the middle of

the road and block traffic, creating issues for citizens in the area.

Activist Brinda Adige shared a video online and said that a school bus was parked at a busy intersection, blocking traffic flow. She also claimed that one of the students inside the bus vomited and the teacher sent the bus driver outside with the student.

"This is endangering a child's life and also blocking traffic. Why does the bus driver have to go with the student?" she said.

A parent told BM that school buses sometimes stop at places where it can lead to traffic blocks very soon even if it halts just for a minute.

"They need to plan their pick-up points in a way that does not obstruct traffic. School buses are okay as they can be regulated by school authorities, but private vans tend to take more children. This has improved over the years and they have reduced the number of children per trip. But they tend to drive fast even in residential areas and honk unnecessarily. This needs to be addressed," he said.

SWR clarifies: Special train run on demand was stopped

The South Western Railways (SWR) has clarified more about the cancellation of the Bengaluru-Hubbali Superfast Express. It has noted that special trains are run as trains on demand (ToD), with the cancelled train (Train No 07339/40) being one such special train.

"Accordingly, the patronage is monitored continuously and special trains are run to destinations which have higher demand from time to time. It may be noted that Train No 07339/40 had an average occupancy of about 60% during weekdays, and higher demands were observed during weekends/holidays only," the Chief Public Relations Officer, Anesh Hedge, said. He added that the SWR has been responsive to demands for train services to various destinations – during Deepawali over 24 pairs of special trains were operated. "In 2023, till date over 200 special trains have been operated till date. Further, if there is any demand, the same will be reviewed and necessary steps will be taken for the convenience of passengers," he explained.

K-RIDE gets a new in-charge MD

Manjula has been appointed in charge of the post of Managing Director (MD) of K-RIDE (Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd). Currently, there is no full-time MD for K-RIDE, which is executing the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP). "Dr Manjula N, IAS, Secretary to Government, Kannada and Culture Department, is placed in-charge of the post of Managing Director, K-RIDE, with immediate effect and until further orders relieving Gaurav Gupta, IAS, from the concurrent charge till the regular Managing Director is selected," a notification said.

Rail activists have consistently pointed out the need for a full-time MD with hands-on knowledge regarding rail infrastructure for the project to be smoothly implemented.

Race to the finish, but are there any set rules?

Activists say Kambala begins in city in 3 days, but authorities yet to explain rules to organisers

KAUSHIK JN



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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The city will be hosting Kambala (buffalo race) for the first time in three days from now. The event to be held from November 25-26 has got animal lovers concerned.

They are worried that all safety and precautions would be followed and there is no cruelty to animals. An online petition too had started in October to insist on this. However, they pointed out that the Karnataka Animal Welfare Board (KAWB) has not come out with detailed information on measures that would be carried out during the festival despite their reminders.

The Kambala festival anticipates a daily footfall of 3 lakhs, with over 100 champion buffalo pairs and skilled runners participating. The substantial number of buffalo pairs emphasises on the necessity for precautionary measures. According to the CJ Memorial Trust's petition, the President's ordinance in June 2017 ratified the Karnataka Second Amendment Act, 2017 PCA, making the festival legal and part of Karnataka's cultural tradition. Section 3(1) specifies that the conduct of 'Kambala' or 'Bulls race or Bullock cart race' is permitted, with conditions ensuring no unnecessary pain or suffering to the animals.

Section 4(f) emphasises on conducting 'Kambala' to follow and promote tradition, culture, and the preservation of native buffalo breeds, focusing on their safety, security, and wellbeing.

"However, there have been many instances of injury to humans and inadvertent or deliberate animal cruelty; and many FIRs have been filed in several locations for the same under Prevention of



Workers prepare mud track for the first ever Kambala race in the city, on Wednesday. Around 149 pairs of buffaloes will participate in event that will take place in Palace Grounds

“The festival should be held in the best possible way. The officials should write to the organisers well in advance on the measures to be followed

—Priya Chetty Rajagopal, CJ trust

injury, cruelty, etc. If there is any issue, a notice must be sent immediately, the animal seized, and police and state administration must be informed,” she said.

Citizens added that with the race commencing in just about three days there is hardly any time left but still a proper order for precautionary and preventive measures has not been released. Chetty added, “We fully support the tradition. The festival conducted should be held in the best possible way. The officials should take charge and write to the organisers well in advance on the measures to be followed. The animals need to be checked for health and adequate measures are taken. If the rules are not followed then the police should give a show cause notice and confiscate the animal.”

Commissionerate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences, Manjunath S Palegar said, “We will be following the same protocol and measures that were being followed in Kambala festivals held in Mangaluru. The Bengaluru deputy director has been asked to follow the same measures as Mangaluru.”

Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the Performing Animals Registration Rules and IPC 429 etc,” said the petition.

Priya Chetty Rajagopal from CJ memorial trust stressed on the two things about the festival - the 2017 second amendment act has ratified the festival as part of a state heritage; and as it is being held in Bengaluru for the first time, there is a concern and spotlight. “The KAWB must come forward and act. In the case of Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Bengaluru, there are three

things that must be done. First, senior members of SPCA should be deputed to the festival and this be prominently informed to the organisers, police and administration much in advance. Second, information has to be given in person and in writing to the organisers to follow all the rules of Performing Animals 2001 rule and to take all precautions to handle the animals without cruelty and injury. Third, veterinarians must examine the animals before the race to ensure they're in good condition and also, after the race to ensure there is no

All about the big race

The first ever 'Kambala,' a buffalo race on a mud track originating from coastal Karnataka, is all set to make its debut in Bengaluru on November 25 and 26 at the Palace Grounds. The chairperson of the organising committee Prakash Shetty said that 139 pairs of buffaloes will be participating in the event and have already departed from the coastal region to Bengaluru. To ensure the smooth execution of the event, organizers have arranged for the transportation of water for the buffaloes to Bengaluru, ensuring their well-being and preventing any disruption to their routine. The organisers anticipate a footfall of around two lakh people during the event, with an estimated expenditure ranging from Rs 7.5

crore to Rs 8 crore. The winner of the race will receive 16 grams of gold and Rs one lakh, the first runner-up will be awarded eight grams of gold and Rs 50,000, and the second runner-up will receive four grams of gold and Rs 25,000. Puttur Congress MLA Ashok Kumar Rai said that participants are driven by a desire to showcase the rich culture of coastal Karnataka rather than monetary rewards. Rai mentioned that six Muslim groups and four Christian groups are also participating. The organisers stressed that photographers will be permitted to take pictures with the condition that they refrain from using a flashlight, as it may agitate the buffaloes and lead to potential disruptions.

Urge to have more talk, less protest at Belagavi

Horatti asks govt to discuss issues with leaders before Session

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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Every year, the winter session for legislative Assembly and Council is held at Belagavi. However, the venue-Suvarna Soudha often witnesses a number of protests. This time, arrangements are being made to ensure there are no protests. Speaking in Bengaluru, Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti said, “The 151st session is scheduled to take place from December 4 to 15 at Suvarna Soudha, Belagavi. It is widely known that during the winter session held at Belagavi, numerous organisations, including farmers, teachers, employees and other organisations engage in continuous protests, satyagraha, and sit-ins, demanding the fulfillment of their various demands. Due to these activities like dharna, conventions, and satyagrahas, many political analysts argue that the fundamental purpose of holding the session in Belagavi is not being adequately fulfilled. According to him, during last year's session, over 102 organisations submitted petitions with various demands within 10 days. Among them, more than 64 resorted to protests, satyagraha, and dharnas, with a participation ranging from 65,000 to 80,000 people. “To accommodate the participants in these protests and demonstrations, the government erected four tents for around 5,000 people, two tents for 1,000 protestors, two tents for 500 people, and three tents each for 200 and 100 people, totalling 14 tents.”

He said that the movement and protests, including roadblocks and sit-ins, lead to substantial crowds outside Suvarna Soudha, resulting in traffic jams. This situation hampers the active participation of legislators



Session is scheduled at Suvarna Soudha from December 4 to 15

of both houses in the session, as they often engage in expressing their views in the ongoing movements. Hence, Horatti urged the government to hold meetings with leaders of organisations before the session to discuss their demands and seek resolutions. “I request the Chief Minister to instruct the ministers to urge leaders of various organisations not to hold sit-ins and satyagrahas outside Suvarna Soudha during the session. I hope that reducing the number of protests outside Suvarna Soudha during the session will allow for a more meaningful discussion on burning issues within the House,” he added.



What is a "detox"? It's a process that involves using particular products, diets or other detoxification methods to try and rid the body of so-called "toxins".

Detoxes are prevalent on social media and spruiked by brands offering detox products, celebrities and influencers.

A documentary airing on Channel 10 this week – Todd Sampson's *Mirror Mirror: Are You Well?* – explores our fascination with detoxing, and the science (or lack thereof) behind it.

So if you're thinking of trying a detox, here's what you need to know.

Detoxing is not new

Detoxing has held an attraction since the time of Hippocrates, who believed four bodily fluids or "humours" – blood, phlegm, black bile and yellow bile – had to remain in balance to maintain good health. Being unwell meant the body's organs and fluids were somehow imbalanced and in need of correction.

Throughout the centuries these "imbalances" have been treated with everything from enemas and emetics to leech therapy and bloodletting. An enema sees a tube inserted into the anus to deliver medication or fluids to the rectum or colon. An emetic is a compound designed to make you vomit. Bloodletting involved using certain techniques – not for the faint of heart – to remove blood from a patient and supposedly cure disease.

Meanwhile, throughout history, the ritual of fasting as a display of self-discipline, purity and holiness was common, particularly among women.

What are the different types of detox?

Fast forward to today, and detoxes look a bit different. Detox products sold over the counter or online are typically teas or drinks to be consumed instead of food.

These approaches sometimes start with a fasting phase or use intermittent fasting throughout the program.

The "detox" tag is appearing on a growing range of teas, coffee, infused waters, drinks with added fruit, vegetables, herbal mixes, nutrients or added blends of "natural" ingredients. These products often claim to flush toxins from the body, or to boost immunity.

Global predictions indicate the detox drink market, estimated at more than US\$5 billion in 2022, will grow by another 50% before 2030.

A survey of detoxification therapies used by naturopaths in the United States reported that more than three-quarters recommended dietary measures, including "cleansing foods" (such

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DETOX

Lowdown on process that tries to get rid of toxins from body



Detox tag is appearing on a growing range of teas, coffee, infused waters, drinks with added fruit, vegetables, herbal mixes, nutrients or added blends of natural ingredients

as beetroot), vitamin, mineral or antioxidant supplements, organic foods, elimination diets and probiotics. While drinks and dietary measures represent typical approaches to a detox,

there are also some more unusual detox practices.

One-third of patients in that same US study had undergone colonic irrigation, which involves infusing fluids into the colon to remove digestive waste.

More than one-quarter had used homeopathic remedies or laxative herbs.

While we don't have equivalent

data for Australia, a survey of more than 2,000 Australian adults found 63% had either used or consulted someone about complementary therapies in the previous year. A portion of these were likely detox therapies.

Do detoxes work?

The short answer is no. A review published in 2022 found detox diets failed to identify plausible pathways by which toxins could be eliminated, or the specific toxins supposedly removed by a particular diet.

This review also pointed out that detoxes defy the general principles of human physiology, in that the liver and kidneys are quite efficient at removing toxins from our bodies.

A previous review from 2015 similarly found studies did not provide convincing evidence to support the use of detox diets.

Detox products don't have to prove they're effective to be on the market. In Australia, complementary medicines sold over the counter are regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, with ingredients assessed for quality and safety, but not whether the products actually work.

You should check any product and marketing claims before purchasing to see what the manufacturers say. Big promises to be sceptical about include eliminating toxins, rapid weight loss, stronger willpower, improved self-esteem, an energy or immunity boost, feeling happier, inner peace, or better skin, hair and nails.

Potential dangers of detoxing

Consuming detox products in place of a regular diet leads to a very low total kilojoule intake, and therefore may lead to weight loss in the short term. But they're not a sustainable way to lose weight.

Detox diets that severely restrict kilojoules or food groups increase the risk of nutrient deficiencies. Adverse effects include fatigue, irritability and bad breath.

There's also a risk detox product ingredient labels might not be accurate, increasing the risk of side effects, potential overdoses or other adverse events. In Spain, a 50-year-old man died after an incorrect ingredient was added to a liver cleanse detox product he used, leading to manganese poisoning.

A 2018-19 audit of premises in New South Wales performing colonic irrigation found failures to meet infection control standards.

Some people should definitely not try detoxing. This includes people with chronic medical conditions, eating disorders, older adults, children and women who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

One positive aspect of detox programmes is that they may help raise awareness of your current food, alcohol or lifestyle habits that could be improved. Reflecting on these can potentially provide the motivation to try and eat more healthily.

(By Clare Collins, University of Newcastle, *The Conversation*)



All you need to know about...

Hospital superbugs

Chlorine disinfectants of no use

One of the primary chlorine disinfectants currently being used to clean hospital scrubs and surfaces does not kill off the most common cause of antibiotic-associated sickness in health care settings globally, according to a new study, led by one of an Indian-origin researchers.

As good as using water

Research by the University of Plymouth in the UK has shown that spores of *Clostridioides difficile*, commonly known as C. diff, are completely unaffected despite being treated with high concentrations of bleach used in many hospitals. The chlorine chemicals are no more effective at damaging the spores when used as a surface disinfectant -- than using water with no additives.

What is C.diff?

C. diff is a microbe that causes diarrhoea, colitis and other bowel complications and is known to infect millions of people all over the world each year.

Threat of superbugs on the rise

"With incidence of antimicrobial resistance on the rise, the threat posed by superbugs to human health is increasing. But far from demonstrating that our clinical environments are clean and safe for staff and patients, this study highlights the ability of C. diff spores to tolerate disinfection at in-use and recommended active chlorine concentrations," said Tina Joshi, Associate Professor in Molecular Microbiology at the University of Plymouth.

Need fit guidelines

"It shows we need disinfectants, and guidelines, that are fit for purpose and work in line with bacterial evolution, and the research should have a significant impact on current disinfection protocols in the medical field globally," she added.

— IANS

Open stone masonry well at Lalbagh

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

over the years. A consequence is water stagnation can lead to gradual decay of trees that are not adapted to flooding. So the horticulture department has decided to have a traditional and natural source of conserving the water.

M Jagdish, joint director of horti-

culture and parks, said: "Especially during rain, there is percolation and excess water run off near Lalbagh main gate, where the well is being constructed. It then connects to the storm water drain. We want to store water in the well. The underground percolation will increase the ground-water level. Secondly, we are tapping

sewage as treated water. Nearly 1,600 sprinklers are being installed. We have a 1.5 MLD treatment plant. We can reduce dependency on treated water by using water from the well. So we were looking for CSR initiatives and experts to carry out the work."

Friends of Lakes, Biome Foundation, India Cares Foundation

and DCB Bank through its corporate social responsibility initiative have worked on a plan to mitigate the impact of rainwater induced flooding.

Ram Prasad, co-founder of Friends of Lakes, said: "A traditional open well lined with stone masonry will be constructed at Lalbagh. Lalbagh with its many lakes and recharge wells has been richly recharging the shallow aquifer and this has raised the water table in the area. However, this water

should be utilised for Lalbagh's needs. The traditional open well acts as a discharge point and can supply fresh water to Lalbagh."

Prasad added: "A well of 30-34 ft diameter and 40-60 ft in depth is being envisioned. No big trees or its roots are being disturbed and smaller plants are being relocated. The well is being dug by the Mannu Vaddar (Bhoji) community with knowledge of centuries in well works."

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I, Manikandan Sankaranarayanan, R/o Flat No. 211, JMR Rose Apts, Doddathogur, Electronic City Phase-1, Bangalore-560100 have changed my minor daughter's name from M.Jenita to Janvika Manikandan for all future purposes.

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I Chandra Mahendra Kumar W/O, Late Mahendra Kumar R/o Mahendra Nivas, Flat No 4 B&c, 4th Floor, Symbiosis Adithya, No 12 Andree Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru 560027 have changed my name to Chandra Baliya

I, Ajith Kumar.R S/o lithik sai.A #M8 3rd cross 3rd main road srirampuram Bangalore-560021 I have changed my son's name from lithik to lithik sai.A and he shall hereafter be known As lithik sai.A for all future purposes

I Eshan S V, S/O Vivek S P R/O No 20, 5th Cross, Akshayanagar West, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560068 have changed my name to Eshan Shivamogga Vivek vide affidavit dated 17-11-23 sworn before notary Jain Swarnamala, Bangalore-68

I, Sachin S, S/O Santhosh Segaran, R/o No 34, 12th Cross, 3rd Main Road, Hoysala Nagar, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore-560016 have changed my name to Sachin Santhosh

I, Sharada Ramachandrappa w/o Ramachandrappa H R/o No.28, 1st main, 6th cross, Maruthi nagar, Nagarabavi man road, Bengaluru 560072 have changed my name to Sharadamma Krishnappa (Sharadamma K) affidavit Dt.22/11/2023 notary Harisha G, B'lturu

I, Vikram Kumar Nagula S/o Sitaramiah Nagula aged about 40 years R/At Flat 210, Spring Serenity Apartment, Opp Dmart, Hennur Main Road, Kalyananagar, B'lturu 560043 have changed my name to Vikram Nagula vide affidavit dtd:22/11/2023 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, B'lturu

I, KALPANA MUTHURULU W/o Rajavardhana Muthurulu resident at DS MAX Sprinkles APT, A Block, No. 107, Hadosi-ddapura, Kodathi, Carmelaram Post, Bengaluru - 560035 Karnataka, have changed my name as KALPANA KUCHI vide affidavit dated 21.11.2023 sworn before notary Subashini, Bengaluru.

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At last, light at the end of tunnel?

NDRF personnel enter Silkyara tunnel; 30 ambulances on stand-by

#NEW DELHI

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel on Wednesday entered the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi where 41 workers remain trapped.

The rescue operations have intensified at the site with around 30 ambulances have been arranged at the spot to cater to emergency services if needed.

Speaking to ANI, Bisan Singh Panwar, Ambulance Technical Staff said, "We have oxygen cylinders available in the ambulances. Once workers come out, their vital organs

will be checked. A total of 30 ambulances have been arranged so far. Out of 30 ambulances, there are 8 advanced life support ambulances and 22 BLS ambulances. It has been instructed to remain alert as rescue operations might be completed by night."

Earlier on Wednesday, Former advisor to the Prime Minister's Office, Bhaskar Khulbe on Wednesday said that work for the next phase will start today itself.

Intense rescue ops

Khulbe, who is also the Special



Members of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) enter a tunnel where workers have been trapped for ten days after it collapsed, in Uttarkashi, on Wednesday

Executive Officer in the Uttarakhand Tourism Department, said, "I am very happy to tell you that with the work we were doing for the last 1 hour, we have drilled another 6-meter length with an American Oger machine. I am hopeful that in the next 2 hours, work will start for the next phase." The government said that ONGC is mobilizing machinery from the USA, Mumbai, and Ghaziabad for vertical boring.

Earlier on November 12, 2023, a collapse occurred in the under-construction tunnel from Silkyara

to Barkot due to debris falling in a 60-meter stretch on the Silkyara side.

The area of entrapment, measuring 8.5 meters in height and 2 kilometres in length, is the built-up portion of the tunnel, offering safety to the labourers with available electricity and water supply.

Five agencies such as ONGC, SJVNL, RVNL, NHIDCL, and THDCL--have been assigned specific responsibilities, working collaboratively with occasional task adjustments for operational efficiency, the government said.

— ANI

NHAI to undertake safety audits of all under-construction tunnels across India

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will undertake a safety audit of all 29 under-construction tunnels across the country to ensure safety and adherence to quality standards, an official statement said on Wednesday. The statement by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) comes in the backdrop of collapse of the Silkyara Tunnel in Uttarkashi. "NHAI officials, along with a team of experts from Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) as well as other tunnel experts, will inspect the ongoing tunnel projects and will submit a report within seven days," the statement said.

With a total length of about 79 km, the 29 under-construction tunnels are spread across the country with 12 tunnels in Himachal Pradesh, six in Jammu and Kashmir, two each in Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and one each in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, and Delhi. NHAI also signed a MoU with Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) that puts onus of review design and safety aspects related to tunnel construction and slope stabilisation of NHAI projects on KRCL.

— PTI

4 Army personnel killed in encounter with terrorists in J-K's Rajouri

#Rajouri/Jammu

Four Army personnel, including two captains, were killed and two others were injured during an encounter between security forces and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Wednesday, officials said.

The fierce gunfight was going on in the area with the induction of more troops to neutralise two terrorists trapped there, they said.

Officials said two captains, a havildar and a jawan have lost their lives during the encounter. A major and another jawan suffered injuries in the encounter, they said, adding the injured have been shifted to the Army's Command Hospital in Udhampur.

The encounter broke out between terrorists and joint forces of the Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police in the Bajimaal area of Dharmasal following a cordon-and-search operation, the police said. In a post on X, the White Knight Corps of the Army said that based on specific intelligence, joint operations were launched in the Kalakote area of Gulabgarh forest in Rajouri on Sunday.

"Contact established on 22 Nov and intense firefight ensued. The terrorists have been injured and surrounded and operations are in progress, amidst acts of valour and sacrifice by own bravehearts in trying to prevent collateral damage to women and children in the highest tradi-



Army personnel and locals carry the body of an army officer near the site of an encounter with terrorists at Kalakote area, in Rajouri district, on Wednesday

tions of Indian Army. #Whiteknightcorps salutes the supreme sacrifice," it said. Officials said the operation has been intensified with induction of additional troops. Locals said that a cordon-and-search operation has been going on in the area since Sunday to track down terrorists operating in the area. "Due to the operation we were asked to stay back at home and not venture out. Our children stayed back at home and did not attend the school," a villager said. The firing is going on in the forest area, he said.

Officials said the two terrorists trapped at the encounter site in Bajimaal appeared to be foreign nationals and had been moving around in the area since Sunday. They even took shelter at a place

of worship, they said. The latest encounter in Rajouri comes close on the heels of another gunfight in Behrote in Budhal area on November 17, in which one terrorist was killed.

Two earlier ambushes in the Mendhar area of Poonch and Kandi forest of Rajouri on April 20 and May 5 respectively had claimed the lives of 10 soldiers.

According to officials, 46 deaths have been recorded in terrorism-related incidents in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch and nearby Reasi district since January this year. While 23 were killed in Rajouri, 15 terrorists and five security personnel have been killed in Poonch district. Three terrorists were killed in Reasi district.

— PTI

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Lovedale, Ootacamund - 643003, The Nilgiris (TN)
Phone: 0423-2442552, 2441696
Website: www.thelawrenceschool.org

The Lawrence School, Lovedale, a premier co-educational Institution located in Nilgiris, invites applications from qualified and experienced personnel for the following contractual posts.

1. **Quartermaster (Stores In-charge)**: Qualification in Material Management and a minimum of 5 years of experience in handling stores and related inventory management are preferred.

2. **Security Officer** – Retired JCOs, Army Subedars, and Honorary Officers are preferred.

Fluency in the local language is a requirement for both of the mentioned positions. Candidates interested in applying are encouraged to send their CVs, along with copies of their qualifications, certificates, and a recent photograph to resume@thelawrenceschool.org within 7 days of the advertisement's publication. Kindly indicate the desired position on the subject line. Only candidates shortlisted for an interview will be contacted.

HEADMASTER



Can Fin Homes Limited

Registered Office, No.29/1, 1st Floor,
Sir M.N. Krishna Rao Road
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru – 560 004
CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699

RECRUITMENT

Can Fin Homes Limited (CFHL) is a listed Housing Finance Company, incorporated under Companies Act 1956, registered with National Housing Bank and regulated by Reserve Bank of India. The Company is looking for recruitment of personnel for

SPECIALIST ROLES FOR FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS



For further details regarding eligibility criteria, terms & conditions etc., please visit Company's website

www.canfinhomes.com

Interested candidates can apply online.

The Company reserves the right of selection of candidates.

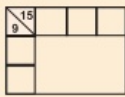
Date: 21/11/2023

Sd/-
General Manager

Take John, Bob and Frank. The sum of their ages is 126. Bob is 6 years older than John. His age is equal to the arithmetic average of John's and Frank's ages. How old are John, Frank and Bob?

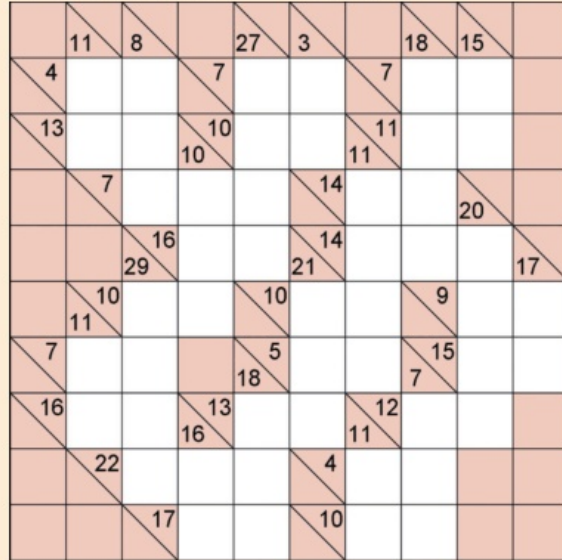
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

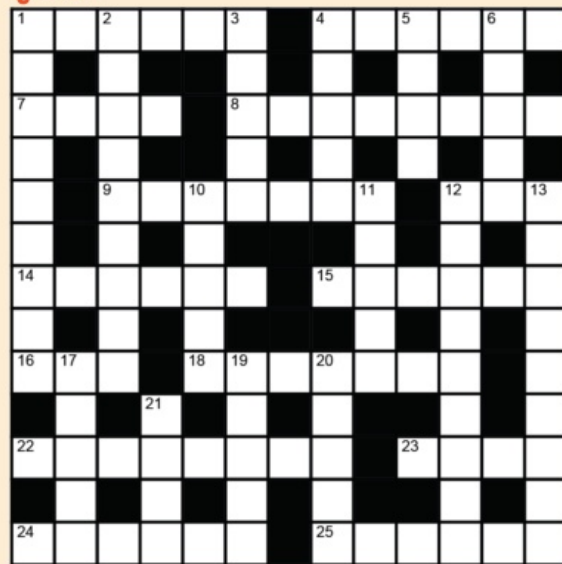


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Metallic sheen (6)
- 4 Talkative and friendly (6)
- 7 Lean (4)
- 8 Separated grain from straw (8)
- 9 North European language (7)
- 12 Water barrier (3)
- 14 Airships (6)
- 15 Roofing man (6)
- 16 Acquire or receive (3)
- 18 Disappointment (3-4)
- 22 Alternative name for Kempe Gowda bus station (8)
- 23 Greek letters—"seat" changed ? (4)
- 24 Furnace worker (6)
- 25 Over there (6)

DOWN

- 1 Slovenly person (9)
- 2 Miserly person (9)
- 3 Consumed (5)
- 4 The central parts? (5)
- 5 In addition (4)
- 6 Greek letter (5)
- 10 Himalayan kingdom (5)
- 11 A greeting (5)
- 12 Caused to explode (9)
- 13 Self-righteous preacher (9)
- 17 Glorify (5)
- 19 Go in (5)
- 20 Dummy (5)
- 21 Seven days (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS T
 AZD DLJ PRXPTY BPYYDY
 IFJHDQDLA VL XZPA ZPY HVLD
 WDKVMD.



Linemaro

I bet you are beautiful under all that make-up



Mindchow

A failure is a man who has blundered, but is not able to cash in on the experience



Joke of the day

If we aren't supposed to eat animals, why are they made of meat?

Loop

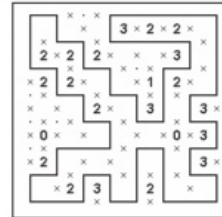
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

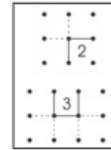
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

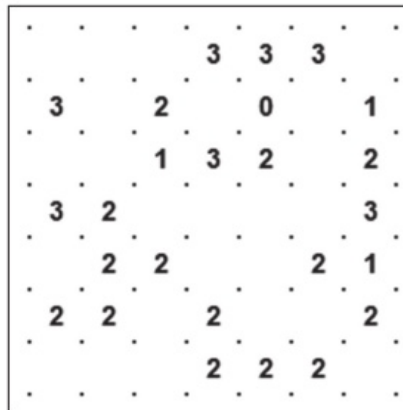
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



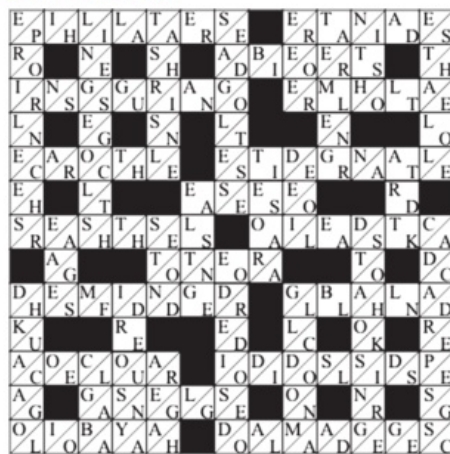
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



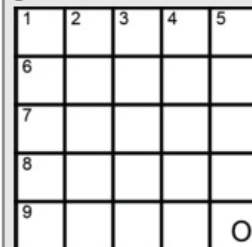
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

- 1 Piles; 6 Janki;
- 7 Tiles; 8 Cheel;
- 9 To lot

DOWN

- 1 Kills; 2 Aesop;
- 3 Let in; 4 CE jet;
- 5 Lot hi

Mensapuzzle

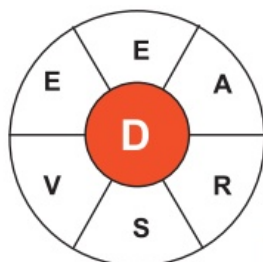
Look at lines both across and down and work out what number should replace the question mark?

8	3	4
9	4	6
12	2	?

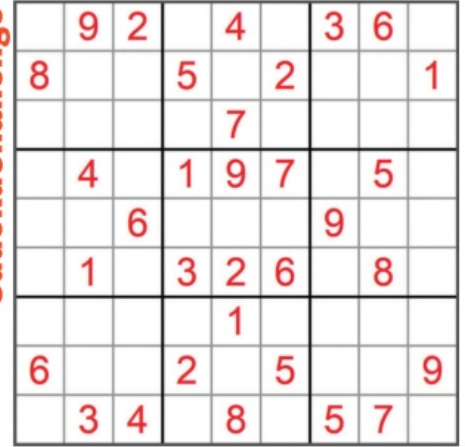
Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 11 Good; 13 Outstanding



SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

□ □ □ □ □ = 12

4 6 6 8

Medium

□ □ □ □ □ = 1

2 6 7 7

Hard

□ □ □ □ □ = 18

1 5 8 5

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Bag is smaller. 2. Arm is lower. 3. Bush is moved. 4. Windowpanes are different. 5. Leg is moved. 6. Light bracket is longer.

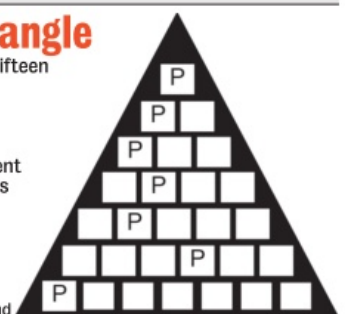
Riddler

Which is the odd one out: Boston, Denver Indianapolis, Houston?

Alpha triangle

- 1 Atomic number Fifteen
- 2 Dad
- 3 Cushion
- 4 Impersonated
- 5 Digging tool
- 6 Window adornment
- 7 Gratifies, indulges

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, the positive moon may bring happiness. Utilise patience at work, and your performance may earn you incentives. Family health issues will be resolved. Job seekers may secure good positions, and love birds can enjoy quality time.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Control unnecessary expenditures for improved financial health. Use creativity to enhance social status. Love birds may receive family support. Students can expect good academic news.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Busy at work, your wisdom will help make the right decisions. Expect a big order, and utilise creativity to renovate your home or office, improving your social status. Consider investing in creative assets.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, helping needy people may boost your reputation. Implementing innovation in work could enhance your business, leading to positive results. Love birds may plan outings or adventures.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Blessed by the moon, you may experience peace of mind. Balancing work-related stress, you'll enjoy every moment of work and domestic life. New income sources may boost savings.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Situations are under control today. Work with patience to overcome past challenges. Plan an outing, and students focus on their goals. Singles may find love with friends' or relatives' help.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today, dissatisfaction and detachment may cause confusion. Plan projects practically, taking care of responsibilities. Postpone migration plans. Be patient before acting.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Feeling dull today, facing old health issues, and potentially tiredness may lead to arrogance affecting domestic harmony. Profits may turn into losses, so think twice before financial transactions.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Feeling unhappy and impatient today, avoid arrogance at work to prevent hidden enemies. Also, avoid rush driving.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Enthusiasm and focus today may accelerate postponed projects. Siblings may help initiate profitable ventures. Expect short family-related trips. Job seekers may receive positive job news.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Feel inner strength today. Losses may convert into profits, enhancing business growth. Praise for your work performance and potential incentives may increase savings.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Feeling happy today, spread joy around you. Enjoy harmony in your personal life and romantic moments with your spouse. Family support for important decisions and potential new ventures in business.



KIDZONE



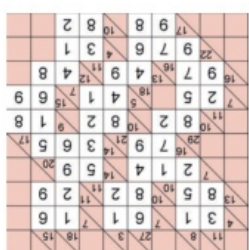
Tarun N, 10 Years, New Horizon Public School



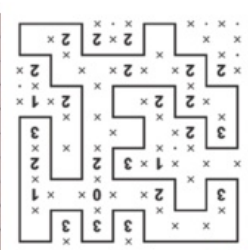
Varun S, 7 Years, JSS Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

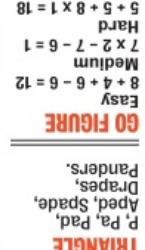
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



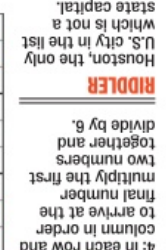
LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



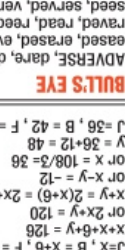
QUICK



STRIKE OUT



QUOTE UNQUOTE



SOLVE IN 10

Fan zone

Rashmika keeps calm as people surround her for selfies at Mumbai airport

Actress Rashmika Mandanna, who is gearing up for the release of the upcoming movie 'Animal', was mobbed by fans at the Mumbai airport on Tuesday night as she arrived for the trailer launch of her upcoming movie 'Animal'. In the video from the airport that has surfaced on social media, the actress was seen struggling to walk as fans surrounded her to take selfies with 'Pushpa: The Rise' actress.

However, Rashmika kept her calm and obliged fans with pictures.

Besides Rashmika Mandanna, 'Animal' stars Ranbir Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Bobby Deol and Tripti Dimri. 'Animal' is the story of a son whose love for his father

knows no bounds. As their bond begins to fracture, a chain of extraordinary events unfolds causing the son to undergo a remarkable transformation consumed by a thirst for vengeance.

Meanwhile, the advance booking for 'Animal' has opened in 206 locations and tickets are available for 424 shows. As of now the film has managed to sell several tickets for its premiere shows across the country minting about Rs 46 lakh. It will clash with Vicky Kaushal starrer, Meghna Gulzar's Sam Bahadur. —ETimes

Video shows actor struggling to make her way through crowd at airport



Proud father, then superstar

Proud father and superstar Shah Rukh Khan on Wednesday said he is more excited about his daughter Suhana Khan's debut film 'The Archies' than his upcoming release 'Dunki'.

SRK made the remark in the latest edition of



his popular #AskSRK session on X (formerly Twitter) during which he answered questions from his adoring fans.

During the session, a fan asked him, "What are you more excited for -- Dunki or Archies?" To this, 'King Khan' said while he is more excited about his daughter's Bollywood debut, Suhana is eagerly awaiting the release of the Raju Hirani directorial, which is set to hit theatres on December 21.

"Suhana loves Dunki and I love Archies. Between the two of us, I think we are all sorted. #Dunki," SRK said in reply to the fan query.

'The Archies' marks the acting debut of Suhana Khan, producer Boney Kapoor's daughter Khushi Kapoor, and Amitabh Bachchan's grandson Agastya Nanda. —ANI

Difficult, but wonderful

Actress Mrunal Thakur has been multitasking between the sets of her upcoming projects, completing the final touches to 'Hi Nanna' and also completing the shoot for 'Family Star' with Vijay Devrakonda.

Currently, she is engrossed in the shooting of a film alongside Vijay Devrakonda in Hyderabad and Delhi. Simultaneously, Mrunal has recently begun promotions for the highly anticipated 'Hi Nanna' starring superstar Nani.

Mrunal has not taken a single day off in the past ten months, showcasing an unparalleled dedication to her craft. Whatever time she gets off from her shoots in Hyderabad, she flies to Mumbai to complete her commitments to her projects in Hindi cinema, her commitments for her brand work and also promotions of her other films. The actress has been shuttling between Hyderabad and Mumbai, seamlessly transitioning from film promotions in the bustling

city of Mumbai to the film sets in the vibrant film hub of Hyderabad.

"It's been an incredible journey. Juggling between projects and promotions has been challenging, but the love and response from the audience make it all worthwhile," said Mrunal. — IANS



Ode to true heroes

Actor Vicky Kaushal will soon be seen donning the uniform for the film 'Sam Bahadur', where he is essaying the role of Sam Manekshaw.

The actor said he gets drawn to films which depict stories of "real heroes from our motherland and history."

Talking about what draws him to stories based on the army or real heroes, the 'Uri: The Surgical Strike' star said: "There is always a sense of pride and immense responsibility when you wear the uniform on screen.

I do get drawn to films which depict stories of real heroes of our motherland and our history.

The actor said: "It is very important to educate along with entertainment to the youth of today's generation of the heroes who worked for the country and how their contributions are helping us to reap benefits now. Those stories draw me as an audience as well as an artist."

Vicky added: "Any films based on true heroes made with the right integrity will always drive me as an actor." — IANS



Half century



Yogesh aka Loose Mada or Yogi is excited about his 50th movie Rosy. Yogesh began his acting career with the film Duniya that was released in 2007. A teaser of Rosy was released at Renukamba Preview Theater recently. A poster introducing choreographer Sandy was also released on the occasion.

"I play Rosy in the movie. The movie's 15-day first schedule of the shoot is completed in and around Bengaluru. The director plans to release a different teaser shortly," said Yogesh.

Sandy, who earned name for his role of Chocolate Coffee in the movie Leo, is this film's special highlight. "Director Shoonya narrated the script of Rosy to me and I agreed to act in it because of the script and the character, Aandal, that I am assigned to play," said Sandy. Shoonya said Sandy is playing a different type of role.

Brisk shooting

Actor-cum-director Nagasekhar is busy with the shoot of his latest Sanju Weds Geetha II, a sequel to Sanju Weds Geetha that was released more than a decade ago. Sanju Weds Geetha II was shot at a farm house on Kanakapura Road a few days ago.

A scene of the hero presenting a luxury car to the heroine was shot at the farm house by cinematographer Satya Hegde under the guidance of Nagasekhar.

"The shooting of Sanju Weds Geetha II was delayed due to the sad demise of its producer Narayan. The success of Sanju Weds Geetha made me write the script to its sequel. Its shooting was held for six days. Now it will be shot in Bengaluru from December 2 and in Switzerland from December 9 for 12 days. Later, we will visit Mumbai and Hyderabad to wrap up the shoot," said director Nagasekhar.

Srinagar Kitty, Rachita Ram, Rangayana Raghu and Sadhu Kokila are the important cast of the movie. "I give importance to songs and music in my movies. Sridhar Sambram has scored music for this movie. We plan to release the trailer on December 29," the director said.

